

In February, it was announced that the Park District received an Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources from the State of Illinois. Please read the press release below for details on this recent development.

[Press Release](#)

In line with the Park District's Comprehensive Community Action Park Plan adopted in March 2014, the Commissioners and staff of the district are excited to implement a plan for the re-development of White Oaks Park. Starting in the summer of 2016, the park district solicited community feedback for the park's improvement after contracting professional services from a land planning and architecture firm (Altamanu). Opportunities for providing input included focus groups and multiple community meetings. Resident feedback, combined with a wetland delineation study, a tree inventory, a condition assessment of the cabin and an environmental study of the structure, drove the formation of the plan that included both passive and active recreation amenities.

The White Oaks Park Concept Plan was adopted by the Wood Dale Park District Board of Commissioners in February of 2017 and was then presented for approval to the City of Wood Dale Community Development Commission at a public hearing. Community feedback led to modifications of the plan, specifically the elimination of two features: an aerial challenge course and a Montrose Street park connection trail. With these changes, community support was achieved, and the plan was approved by the City Council on June 7, 2018. The project will be completed in three phases. [Click here](#) to view the site plan.

Part of the first phase, which includes, the removal of the cabin, class room, and an adjacent shed, was completed this past fall. The remaining elements of this initial phase include, retro-fitting of the parking area and the construction of a new activity and nature building. [Click here](#) to view the rendering and floor plan. Also included is the start of the creation of a meadow and the addition of a walking path, along with new landscaping.

The second phase includes: the replacement of the picnic shelter, with adjacent lawn game courts, adding a new children's discovery area/playground, improving the scouting area with a council ring, trail improvements with natural element fitness stations and adding environmental art.

The final phase includes a new dog-friendly area, re-constructing the parking lot, making more improvements to the existing trails, and the addition of a spartan trail.

Completion of each phase is dependent upon funding. The park district has secured the necessary capital to complete phase #1, and phase #2, in the next few years. Alternative funding sources are being pursued, including another state grant. Private funding and sponsorship opportunities will also be available.

The passive and active features of the site will appeal to multiple age groups, while enhancing leisure opportunities in the community and improving property values and the natural environment of the neighborhood. Community input is the cornerstone of this project and will be accepted by the Wood Dale Park District Executive Director at mellmann@wdparks.org.